

## Caso di Natalee

# An open lettter to Joran van der Sloot

Since you are the person last seen with Natalee Holloway, you are the person who most likely holds the key to a mystery that has taken on worldwide recognition. Three months ago, your name and that of Natalee Holloway were anonymous to most of the world. Now, even people like me from a far off place like Indianapolis, Indiana find your names coming up in daily conversation.

The circumstances surrounding the move from obscurity to world fame involves the disappearance of a beautiful young woman and the heartache and pain that is the worst fear of any parent. The pain experienced by the Holloway-Twitty families goes beyond that any parent should endure.

You yourself are also experiencing a situation that most young men will never face. The difference in your situation and theirs is that you, at any time, can start the healing process for those directly involved and those praying for both Natalee and yourself. Allegedly, you are telling different versions of what happened that night and therefore police do not know for sure where to begin their search.

As a criminal defense attorney in the United States, I am sure your attorney advised you to "lawyer up" or in other words remain silent. While this advice protects you in a court of law, it does not erase or diminish the events of that night. While by taking this stance you may be able to escape a conviction in a court of law, it will not prevent the self-imposed punishment that is far worse. Telling the truth will remove this weight from your shoulders.

The consensus belief of those who are following this case is that you know more than you have told authorities to date. This may or may not be true. If it is, it is time for you to look within yourself to do what is right. You know what is right for you and for everyone else who depend on you to tell the truth. This matter is much bigger than Joran van der Sloot. It is time to put others first.

One never knows when he or she will face the decisive moment that defines your character for the rest of your life. For you this is that moment. It is time to summon the courage to speak the truth. If you were involved in her disappearance and you escape criminal justice, people will forever think you are the person who was involved with Natalee's disappearance and got away with it. The one you cannot escape is that person in the mirror. While others may forget, you will carry that burden forever.

I am not a lawyer in this country so please do not consider this as legal advice. You have excellent legal representation on which you must rely for legal advice. However based on my experience with people in a similar situation,

I can tell you what has happened to people who have not been fully candid about their involvement in a situation. You cannot hide from yourself or your God. Those two judges will impose a punishment far worse than any court. The future is in your hands. Do what you know is right.

An American Tourist